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PETER DE ALCOBASSE PHYSICIAN TO HENRY IV.

BY R. R. JAMES

ON Dec. 14, 1420, Peter de Alcobasse had a grant of denization recorded on the Patent Roll of 8, Henry V, m. 5. It is stated that he was born in Portugal; his grant was under the privy seal and he appears to have paid the sum of £30 into the hanaper¹ for the privilege. Besides this he also appears on the Patent Rolls in the year 1412, Feb. 7, where it is recorded that the King had granted him the prebend of West Thurrock in the Free Chapel of Hastynges; while on Feb. 29, 1412, there is another grant to him, as the King's servant and physician, of the Deanery of Wymburnemynster (Wimborne). Still later in 1412 occurs the mandate to the Dean and Chapter of the King's free chapel of Hastynges to admit and induct the King's physician, Peter Acobasse (*sic*), to the prebend of West Thurrock and to assign to him a stall in the choir and a place in the Chapter. This grant by Henry IV. landed poor Peter in trouble in the Court of Chancery in the next reign as will be seen later.

Hutchins, "Hist. of Dorset," vol. III, p. 187, gives: "Peter de Altobasso—or bosco, an Italian, the King's physician, admitted Dean of Wimborne, 29 April, 1412." It is also stated that Peter was Prebendary of Hoxton in St. Paul's, London, in 1420, and of Windsor in 1415; and that he seems to have resigned Wimborne in 1415. The manuscript medical court roll of the late Dr. S. D. Clippingdale, preserved in the library of the Royal College of Surgeons, gives him as Prebendary of St. George's, Windsor, Dec. 21, 1422, vice John Eston, deceased. The reference is to Rymer's "Foedera."

Peter died in 1427. His will, in Latin, would appear to be the earliest medical will preserved in the P.C.C.; there are several points of interest in it, notably the description of "magister in medicinis." The following is the translation:—

Peter de Alcobascho. (P.C.C., Luffenham, 8.) In the name of God Amen: Thursday next after the Feast of St. Dunstan (i.e., May 19) 1427 I Peter de Alcobascho Master in Medicines of good and sound memory make my testament in this manner. *In primis* I leave my soul to God Almighty, the Blessed Mary and all Saints and my body to be buried in the church of the order of Friar

¹ Hanaper: an office of the Court of Chancery (Trice Martin's Record Interpreter).

Preachers. I leave to the aforesaid church for my sepulture 20s. I leave to William Denys my servant (*famula*) £20 and one good (*meliore*) piece of silver with a cover, 1 cloak of sanguine (sangwen) furred with marten. I leave to John Wally £10, 1 covered piece, 1 scotch horse and a furred cloak (*toga*). Item I leave to John Cokerman £10, 1 covered piece and a green cloak and a horse called "oldebayard." Item I leave to Ralph Bolde £10, and 1 piece covered and a furred cloak and 1 horse. Item I leave to William Glouceter £10. To Thomas Belle 10 marks 9 shillings. To Thomas lestaville 6 marks and a horse. I leave to Richard my *Capanus* ² £10 and a horse and a covered piece. To William Barbour 10 marks and an uncovered piece; to Robert de Stabill 6 marks; to Alice Jorge 20s., to Agnes Cornewales 10 marks. To William Sikyltrys, chaplain, 1 mark. To John Carter of Plumsted 2 marks 1d.; to the widow of Richard Clerk my servant 6 marks; to the bedewoman of St. Katherine 9s. To the wife of Robert Notyngham 10 marks. The Residue of all my goods not left in the present testament I give and leave my executors, viz., Thomas Chawcers, Lodovie Johan, Thomas Walsyngham, John Cornewales and Richard Drake, Chaplain, that they do not neglect to dispose in the best manner thay are able for the good of my soul. Proved, 30, June, before Master John Lyndefeld, Commissary.

On the Close Roll of 2, Henry V, May 3 is found mention of the lawsuit of Thomas Feriby, clerk, otherwise priest, against Peter for thrusting him out of his prebend of West Thurrock. It is too long for insertion here; but from Feriby's petition it would appear that he was appointed to the prebend, vacant by the death of John Harmesthorpe, "being a prebend in the King's free chapel of Hastyng in the diocese of Oicestre, and in the gift of William Bourghier, Knight, in right of Anne his wife, daughter and heir of Eleanor, Duchess of Gloucester." Feriby enjoyed his prebend "peaceably until unlawfully thrust out by the said Peter, by colour of the late King's collation to him . . . at the untrue submission of the said Peter that the same was void, when it was not, and in the King's gift, which it was not." The Sheriff of Essex had notice to make Peter appear in Chancery to show cause why he should not be made to give the prebend back to Feriby. The latter appeared in person and Peter by his attorney, John Corve, who averred that by letters patent dated at Westminster 7, Feb. 13 Henry IV the late King gave him the prebend, being then void and in his gift. The result of the action is not recorded.

I am indebted to Mr. J. Harvey Bloom for the transcript of the will and for the extracts from the Patent and Close Rolls.

² A contraction for Capellanus, a chaplain.